Terrorism, including the latest UN Security resolution 1373, which was on 28th September, 2001 under Chapter VII of the Charter and outlined ranging comprehensive and mandatory steps to combat international Terorism.

During his recent visits to the Russian Federation, Unitpd States of America and United Kingdom, as well during his meetings with other Heads of State/Government, Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee forcefully brought out the need to systematically root out terrorism, not just from one country or one region, but from the whole world. In the Joint Communique after the recently concluded second India-European Summit on 23rd November, 2001, both sides supported the fight against terrorism, Wherever it occurred and regardless of motives, and hoped that Afghanistan I no longer remain a base for terrorist organisations and training camps.

**Cost cutting measures in the ME A**

1255. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended for cost cutting measures in the Ministry of External Affairs;

(b) whether the Commission has also recommended for closure of seven Missions and downsizing of Missions in 12 other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): The Expenditure Reforms Commission in its report pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs has made suggestions for restructuring and nationalising the functioning of the Ministry including, *inter alia,* suggestions for effecting savings where necessary.

(b) The Commission has suggestedj.that seven Missions could be considered for closing down and has suggested possible reduction in the size of 22 Missions in other countries.

(c) Missions suggested for closure are in the following countries:

Botswana, Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Malta, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles and Peru.

Countries where downsizing of the Missions has been recommended are:

Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Algeria, Columbia, Cuba, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kyrghystan, Madagascar, Morocco, Panama, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan.

(d) The recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission are under the consideration of Ministry of External Affairs, as part of its own ongoing exercise to rationalise and restructure the Ministry according to functional necessities.

**India's initiatives to fight terrorism**

1256. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inhuman terrorism triggered US rage and its consequent attack on Afghanistan killing many children, women and other civilians is threatening to escalate a global war;

(b) if so, whether India should immediately initiate some global actions to fight out terrorism of any hue and devastating war;

(c) if so, whether some actions have already been initiated to render peace a chance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The military campaign in Afghanistan is in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in the USA.

(b) to (d) The tragic events of September, 11 have brought heightened awareness in the international community of the urgent need to combat terrorism. As a victim of terrorism for over two decades, India has consistently stressed that combating terrorism should have the highest priority on the global agenda. We have emphasised that terrorism is a global menace which cannot be compartmentalised; that the fight against it has to go beyond the immediate; and has to be comprehensive, global and sustained. India has also pointed out that there can be no justification for acts of terrorism; political, religious, ethnic, ideological or any oher. International measures to counter terrorism should encompass not only the perpetrators of terrorist acts, but also those who incite, support, finance or extend safe havens to terrorists.